

www.thefilipinochronicle.com

HAWAII

FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ MARCH 5, 2016 ◆

OPERATION MANONG PAVES WAY FOR STUDENTS' SUCCESS 4

COVER STORY PAGE



BUSINESS PROFILE

11 J AND L PAPAYA FARM: 17 YEARS OF PASSION FOR PAPAYA GROWING



HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

13 HIRONO PROMOTES PERMANENT TAX CREDITS FOR MIDDLE CLASS



TECHNOLOGY FOR DAILY LIVING

17 LOWERING VEHICLE FUEL COSTS



CELEBRATING 23 YEARS OF EXCELLENT CHRONICLING OF FILIPINO NEWS AND EVENTS!

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE
94-356 WAIPAHU DEPOT RD., 2ND FLR.
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HONOLULU, HI
PERMIT NO. 9661

EDITORIALS

Operation Manong's Impact on Filipino Youth

What began over four decades ago as a tutoring and youth mentoring program for Filipino youth has since evolved far beyond its original mission statement. Founded in 1971, Operation Manong (OM) was one of the first programs at the University of Hawaii-Manoa to address campus diversity and equal access to higher education. One of OM's first goals was to increase the numbers of Filipino students who were severely underrepresented at UH. OM also launched a variety of activities that were truly "outside of the box." One such program, the Future Teachers Workshop, motivated young Filipinos to consider teaching as a career. Other activities encouraged youth to pursue engineering or kept them busy with an after-school sports league that combined a study hall and tutoring. There was also The Filipino Community Network (a 30-minute KNDI radio show), the Kulea Project Native Hawaiian community-based development project, as well as partnerships with the Japanese-American Citizens League, Filipino Community Center and the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii.

OM's outreach services over the years expanded beyond tutoring immigrant students to encompass college recruitment and retention, summer enrichment classes, scholarships and tuition waivers, community mentorship, graduate school preparation, social justice activities and a host of other endeavors. The program changed its name in 2000 to the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) to reflect the growth in the scope of its activities and increased diversity of students served.

A good number of Filipino youth and youth from other ethnic groups benefited tremendously from their OM/OMSS experience and are now successful professionals in education, government, law, engineering, nursing, social work and other fields. Several of these alumni spoke candidly about their positive experience at OM's 40th anniversary celebration in 2012 and how they have developed into not only productive members of society but also as outstanding individuals concerned with the welfare of others and the community. The Filipino community is indebted to OM/OMSS and their hardworking directors and staff—both past and present—for the profound impact they have made on Hawaii's youth. We salute OM/OMSS and look forward to its continued work and proud legacy.

Follow the Law and Allow President Obama to Appoint the New SC Justice

The sudden passing of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and finding his replacement arguably could have equally significance as the race for U.S. president. Given the influence the high court has in interpreting, and thus setting laws of precedence on a sleuth of controversial issues, Scalia's replacement could potentially influence Americans' way of life much more than most people think.

Putting into perspective what's at stake

To date, President Barack Obama had replaced two liberal SC justices with two other liberal SC justices. The replacement of Scalia, known as the "intellectual anchor of the court's conservative majority," with yet another liberal or moderate Obama appointee could tip the high court's rulings to favor left-leaning

FROM THE PUBLISHER

On case you haven't noticed, the weather has been unusually dry since the beginning of the year. The strong El Nino system that generated a higher number of storms than usual for the 2015 hurricane season continues to persist in our area of the Pacific, resulting in a dry weather pattern. In fact, the very dry conditions broke records for the lowest January rainfall levels recorded at several gauges statewide. If the lack of rain persists, expect the Board of Water Supply to issue water advisories in the coming months. In the meantime, let's do what we can now to help conserve water.

Our cover story for this issue delves into the history behind Operation Manong (OM), a university based organization that has uplifted the lives of Oahu's youth—both Filipino and non-Filipino. In fact, several of the Chronicle's staff writers and editorial board have benefited from tuition stipends provided by OM as well as the camaraderie and friendships from their time at the university. Despite a name change to the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS), many old timers still refer fondly to the program as OM. OMSS Director Clem Bautista details the program's early history and the many innovative outreach activities that were launched. We hope that you will enjoy reading Clem's story (see page 4), which for some of you will be like a walk down memory lane.

We also have in this issue a business profile of J and L Papaya Farm on the Big Island. Owners Jimmy and Erlinda Bernardo have managed to run a thriving papaya farm, despite the ups and downs of an uncertain economy, bad weather and forces beyond their control. They credit their faith in God and family unity for seeing them through these past 17 years. Please turn to page 11 to read more about this hard-working couple. Lastly, we have a book review of three new culinary books featuring Filipino cuisine. If you are an aspiring chef or simply want to brush up on your culinary skills, turn to page 10. The books are available at Kalamansi Books & Things. To obtain a copy, call 358-2868.

In closing, we encourage you to read the other informative columns and articles in this issue. Feel free to email us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com with any story idea, suggestion or concern you may have.

Until our next issue...*aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

issues. Currently after Scalia's death, there is a split 4-4 between conservative and liberal SC justices.

The repercussion of another Democrat-appointed justice could be epic to the liberal cause in the generations to come especially when considering the near life-term tenure of each SC justice. This is why Republicans are wide-eyed vigilant and up-at-arms in stalling the appointment of Scalia's replacement until after the election, hoping that the GOP can capture the White House and sway the high court toward the right with a GOP appointed justice.

But the stall tactic of the Republican-majority U.S. Senate could very well backfire if the GOP refuses to hold hearings and vote on whomever Obama decides to appoint. The last thing Americans would want is more obstructionism and partisanship. In a tight race for the presidency, this could tip the result in favor of the Democratic nominee for president.

Issues at stake

In the last year, the SC ruled that Obamacare was deemed

(continued on page 3)

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

Publisher & Executive Editor
Charlie Y. Sonido, M.D.

Publisher & Managing Editor
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Associate Editors
Dennis Galolo | Edwin Quinabo

Contributing Editor
Belinda Aquino, Ph.D.

Creative Designer
Junggoi Peralta

Photography
Tim Llena
Administrative Assistant
Shalimar Pagulayan

Columnists

Carlota Hufana Ader
Emil Guillermo
Ruth Elynia Mabanglo, Ph.D.
Ron Menor
J.P. Orias
Pacita Saludes
Reuben S. Seguritan, Esq.
Charlie Sonido, M.D.
Cong. Mark Takai
Emmanuel S. Tapon, Esq.
Felino S. Tubera
Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

Contributing Writers

Clement Bautista
Teresita Bernales, Ed.D.
Serafin Colmenares, Jr., Ph.D.
Julia Crowley
Linda Dela Cruz
Fiedes Doctor
Danny De Gracia, II, MA
Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand
Amelia Jacang, M.D.
Caroline Julian
Raymund Li. Liangson, Ph.D.
Federico Magdalena, Ph.D.
Deborah T. Manog
Maita Milallos
Paul Melvin Palalay, M.D.
Renelaine Bontol-Pfister
Seneca Moraleda-Puguan
Lilia Q. Santiago, Ph.D.
Jay Valdez, Psy.D.
Glenn Wakai
Amado Yoro

Philippine Correspondent:
Greg Garcia

Neighbor Island Correspondents:

Big Island (Hilo and Kona)
Grace Larson | Ditas Udani
Kauai
Millicent Wellington
Maui
Christine Sabado

Big Island Distributor
Grace Larson | Ditas Udani

Kauai Distributor
Amylou Aguinaldo
Nestor Aguinaldo
Jimmy Illoreta

Maui Distributor
Cecile Piro

Molokai Distributor
Maria Watanabe

Oahu Distributor
Yoshimasa Kaneko
Jonathan Pagulayan

Advertising/Marketing Director
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Account Executives
Carlota Hufana Ader
J.P. Orias

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is published weekly by The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. and is located at 94-356 Waipahu Depot, Waipahu, HI 96797. Telephone (808) 678-8930 Facsimile (808) 678-1829. E-mail filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Website: www.thefilipinochronicle.com. Opinions expressed by the columnists and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle management. Reproduction of the contents in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the management. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

U.S. SBA SMALL BUSINESS JOURNALIST AWARDEE
MEMBER, SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

30 Years After Marcos, You're Happier, the Further You Are from the Philippines, Ask Oscar Nominee Ronnie Del Carmen

When it comes to Chinese New Year, everyone loves to celebrate and say “Gung Hay Fat Choy.”

Some people have been just too busy to remember.

Take for example the pride of Filipino creative types everywhere.

Ronnie Del Carmen was ready last Sunday to be announced to the estimated tens of millions around the world that he had just won Best Original Screenplay for the Pixar hit, “Inside Out.”

It was the first award. If it had, you could have stopped watching the 88th Oscars be-

fore it degenerated into an Anti-Asian mess.

When I met Del Carmen at Pixar in the San Francisco Bay Area just prior to Oscar weekend, he told me he came to the U.S. in 1989, when he was 29.

“You know what this week is, what they’re celebrating in the Philippines?” I asked.

“I have no idea,” he said, so deeply focused on his work and the upcoming Oscars.

“It’s 30 years after the EDSA revolution,” I said.

“Oh my goodness, has it been 30 years, already?” he asked. “That’s fascinating, I’ve been gone a long time.”

We both had a good laugh, but once his memory was jogged, Del Carmen recounted the great moment at EDSA, when the helicopters flew over



Ronnie Del Carmen

the crowd, and everyone thought the screams were from people being killed. But they were screams of joy. The army flipped sides, literally. The military was setting the country free from Marcos.

Del Carmen couldn’t be-

lieve it at first half expecting the strongman would turned back the crowd. “I had lived under the regime since I was 12,” he told me. “It’s been part of you for so long.”

But it happened.

And then, within a few short years, the document his father Rogelio filed with U.S. immigration authorities petitioning him to America arrived.

Like many Filipinos before and since, he left his family with their blessing to go ahead and seek his opportunity and fortune in America. When he earned, he sent money back. And then he got his break as an animator.

And the Philippines?

He still goes back. Still thinks about it. But he’s a U.S. citizen now, and maybe after

Sunday, an Oscar winner.

“I don’t really think about the revolution as much as I used to,” he told me. “It seems like the country has tried to find its way. It’s not a done deal, not everything became right all at once.”

That’s an understatement.

Thirty Years Later

Clearly, Del Carmen has moved on.

But for the citizens of the archipelago, their fate is their fate. In pesos.

But it may be worse if you’re a Filipino who remembers history.

If you can’t leave, it’s easier to forget.

That seems to be the case, 30 years after the fall of the dic-

(continued on page 12)

EDITORIALS (from page 2, FOLLOW THE LAW...)

constitutional. It also ruled that the government had no legal right to deny same-sex couples the right to marriage. Both issues, even with a then conservative SC majority, passed the legal test and should remain as the law of the land. Another Democrat-appointed justice should all but guarantee that these two liberal causes are protected.

With yet another liberal to moderate justice on the high court, some issues that could be tackled include: expanding discrimination laws in the workplace and housing to include sexual orientation, along with the already protected classes of age, sex, national origin, the handicap and religion.

If universal healthcare became a political reality, having a liberal majority in the high court should also be constructive in defending its constitutional merits.

The most egregious law to come out of the conservative-led SC of late is the ruling that corporations, unions, and organized entities could donate as much money to political campaigns and PACs. This ruling,

as well as campaign finance reform in general, is bound to be revisited and challenged.

Remembering Scalia

Clearly Scalia’s worldview and legal interpretation represented a brand of politics out-of-step with modern times. He called himself a legal “originalist” – someone who interprets the U.S. Constitution by considering what the founding fathers of the Constitution were thinking at the time they wrote it. The problem with originalists such as Scalia is that many of the contemporary issues could not be neatly placed in the framework of the U.S. Constitution because they were simply non-issues back then. So to many non-legal scholars and everyday citizens, Scalia’s legal reasoning on some issues appeared outright archaic, sexist and racist.

In an affirmative action case just last December, he said that some minority students may be better off at “a less advanced school, a slower-track school where they do well.”

He elaborated: “I don’t think it stands to reason that it’s

a good thing for the University of Texas to admit as many blacks as possible.” He goes on to talk about the harm that can be caused by such students with inferior academic credentials by admitting them to colleges where they do not thrive.

Scalia was the lone vote against a suit brought by a woman who wanted to enter the then all-male Virginia Military Institute. Scalia defended the right of states to criminalize homosexual sodomy that eventually was struck down. He considered the right to own a firearm as a right under the Second Amendment, which is now considered to many legal scholars as a stretch in interpreting the law. In *Planned Parenthood v Casey*, Scalia argued that there is no constitutional right to abortion. He was also in favor of the death penalty.

Unlike some conservative-leaning justices, Scalia along with Justice Clarence Thomas, never failed in siding with conservatives on practically all the major issues, including the challenges to Obamacare and same-sex marriage.

No More Originalists

What Americans need is another justice willing to use common sense in interpreting laws to contemporary times, not another “originalist.”

Scalia once said: “I am an originalist. I am not a nut.”

David Strauss wrote in his book *The Living Constitution* in referring to Scalia: “If following a theory (originalism) consistently would make you a nut,

isn’t that a problem with the theory?”

Republicans are wrong in trying to obstruct Obama from carrying out his duties as president to appoint another SC justice. Americans must demand that U.S. Senators stop playing partisan politics and allow a justice be appointed now rather than after the election for president.

Do You Need Help With Medicaid and Medicare?

I will help you understand Medicaid as well as Medicare Parts A, B, C & D. It can be very confusing but I can assist you with any questions or concerns you may have.



Vance Kobayashi
Certified Agent

There is never a fee for my service.

Call 780-7989 Today!



1585 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1020
Honolulu, HI 96814

(808) 780-7989 vkobayashi@sbchi.com

COVER STORY

Operation Manong Builds Brighter Future For Filipino Youth

By Clement Bautista

Ot's been over 40 years—44 years to be exact—since the combined efforts of a committed group of community and university individuals came together to create Operation Manong (OM). Over the decades, OM evolved, expanded and was eventually renamed as the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) to reflect new challenges and innovative programs needed to serve the community.

Details of how OM has thrived and its continued growth are not well known. Only the outlines of OM's history and significance are usually touched upon. This article hopes to elucidate some of these details for a greater appreciation of the good work done by dedicated people over the past four decades.

Storied Past

OM was conceived at the University of Hawaii-Manoa (UHM) in 1971 and "hatched" in 1972. A coalition of Filipino and non-Filipino community leaders included Amefil Agbayani (UHM), Belen Ongteco (State Department of Education), Sheila Forman (UHM graduate student), Bienvenido Junasa (State Immigrant Services Center), Anthony Marsella (UHM), James Misajon (Citi-

zens Advisory Committee on Immigration), Ricardo Trimillos (UHM) and UHM students Emme Tomingbang and Johnny Verzon.

Other UHM faculty support came from Belinda Aquino, Virgie Chattergy, Robert Clopton, Precy Espiritu, Michael Forman and Teresita Ramos. Following the Immigration Act of 1965 allowing increased immigration from the Philippines, they all recognized the need to assist and encourage the growing population of immigrant Filipino youth in their adjustment to Hawaii and the U.S.

As an organizing principle, the organization adopted the Ilokano kinship term for older brother—"manong"—thereby linking university students with their younger peers—"ading"—in the public schools.

At the time, *manong* had been used in Hawaii in a derogatory manner referring to Filipinos, so OM also sought to restore and promote the positive, traditional use of *manong*.

OM was funded by the State and received additional funding in the early years through the United Presbyterian Church and ACTION, a federal domestic volunteer agency. Although legislative funding for OM was funneled through the UH, OM had difficulty finding a home within an administrative unit. At one time, OM was appropriately within the College of Education but eventually moved to other units, including the Social Science Research Institute and finally under the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

UHM students were trained and assigned to function as *manongs* and *manangs* to their *ading*—students in public school English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. OM students tutored their *ading* and conducted cultural and social activities to help newcomers in their adjustment to Hawaii. Not all students were Filipino and, in fact, OM sought bilingual college students to be assigned to schools with Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Samoan students.

Amy Agbayani served as OM's first director (1972-1986) and although she continued to support and advocate for OM until the present, day-to-day activities were eventually passed to Melinda Tria Kerkvliet (1986-1992) and later Clement Bautista (1992 to



(L to R) Dexter Artienza, Cheyona Lopez, Jabril Hassan, Linda Kosen, Marvin Starominski-Uehara and Ebil Matsutaro renew acquaintances at OM's 40th anniversary reunion at the FilCom Center in 2012.



Former OM/OMSS workers Romeo Asuncion, Leon Florendo, Rex Quidilla and Niki Libarios at OM's 40th anniversary reunion.

the present). Another important OM administrator in the early years was Helen Nagtalon-Miller whose insightful conversations provided students with a firsthand link between Hawaii's Filipino plantation experience and the pursuit of higher education.

OM's early history is also tied to the history of the UHM Ethnic Studies Department (ES). Not only was OM physically located with ES in portable buildings located in the Manoa campus boondocks, but many OM students and staff also participated in ES efforts to establish itself as a UHM program. In addition to OM training, the close proximity to ES faculty and students helped OM staff and students develop their own consciousness of social equity, community and identity.

Evolving with the Times

Starting with Kerkvliet's term as director, OM started to evolve beyond the tutoring functions established at OM's inception. Thanks to the support of the UH Vice President of Student Affairs Doris Ching, OM hired Bautista and Adrialina Guerero to develop and conduct new activities. Student

recruitment became a growing concern, especially since data showed Filipinos and other ethnic minorities were underrepresented in higher education. In addition to tutoring and conducting social activities, some OM students were assigned to work with high school counselors to advise students seeking higher education.

Recruitment coordinator Guerero recalls, "Thanks to high school college counselors, students were pulled out of their free classes to speak to our student recruiters in small groups and one-on-one. Some schools even provided us with a room to meet with the students."

One eye-opening discovery OM staff made during its recruitment activities was the differences between many immigrant students and their more "local" counterparts. This discovery, supported by research at the time, indicated local minority students had lower expectations of themselves compared to recently-immigrated minority students. This difference also seemed to be reinforced by the observation at UHM that most of the Filipino students were recent immigrants rather than locally-

(continued on page 5)

BALIKBAYAN BOXES
LBC HARI NG PADALA

GRACE LARSON
BIG ISLAND AGENT of LBC

211 MAKANI CIRCLE
HILO, HI 96720
808-640-1540
808-960-6006
Fax: 1-866-663-1453
raven_reuboni@yahoo.com

Drop-off Your Balikbayan Boxes at
Two Big Island Courier locations!

Come visit us at our Authorized Partner locations:

HILO WAREHOUSE
831 Leilani St., Hilo, HI 96720



Business Hours:
Monday to Friday
8:00 am - 10:00 am or 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Sundays: at 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

KONA
73-4776 Kananani St. Unit #12
Kailua Kona, HI 96740



Business Hours:
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Sundays only

CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR PICK-UP!

Grace Larson
(808) 640-1540
Joy Luea (Kona)
(808) 937-0663

LBC We Like To Move It

(800) 338-5424 www.LBCexpress.com f /LBCexpress @LBCexpress

www.allparalegalservices.com

COVER STORY

(from page 3. OPERATION MANONG...)

born. From this point on, OM's recruitment efforts and scope broadened beyond ESL students.

In addition to recruitment at the high school level, in 1987, OM worked with Leeward Community College (LCC) counselor Ernie Libarios, Sr., on the Leeward-Manoa Transfer Project, in which LCC students were linked to a UHM course conducted by OM specialist Danilo Campos. A variety of study skills, computer literacy and writing exercises were conducted during this transition class. Project funding from the McInerney Foundation even provided stipends to participating students. By the end of the granting period, however, the needs of transferring students changed and participation dropped off.

By the early 1990s OM students were conducting tutoring and recruitment activities at Campbell, Farrington, McKinley, Roosevelt and Waipahu high schools. Pre-high school "early intervention" activities were conducted at Dole, Kalakaua, Stevenson and Waimanalo intermediate schools. Tutorial activities were also conducted at August Ahrens, Kalihi Kai, Kalihi Uka, Kapalama and Queen Kaahumanu elementary schools. As funds permitted, OM students visited schools on the Big Island, Maui and Kauai.

OM staff and students also worked with community agencies and organizations, including Kalihi YMCA, the Mutual Assistance Associations Center (MAAC), the Catholic Immigration Center and Sariling Gawa to provide tutorials and workshops to encourage the pursuit of higher education.

Major Initiatives and Partnerships

An incident once observed by an OM tutor reinforced OM's decision to more carefully examine the preparation teachers received in their training. The incident occurred at a middle school with a predominantly Filipino student population where students were asked to identify "local foods" in Hawaii. When a Filipino stu-

dent offered *pinakbet* and *adobo*, the teacher countered that those were not local foods. When asked to name local foods, the teacher replied "sushi and saimin."

To address this apparent disconnect between the knowledge and experiences of immigrant students and their teachers, OM created the Future Teachers Workshop (FTW). This partnership with the Affirmative Action Office of the State Department of Education Personnel Division (HDOE) had two goals: to help the DOE encourage students from Hawaii's underrepresented groups to become teachers and to introduce potential teachers to a radical version of multicultural education.

FTW's summer program introduced high school students interested in becoming teachers to theories and practices emphasizing the legitimacy and centrality of the perspectives and experiences students themselves bring into the classroom. Teachers who were properly oriented to multicultural education could utilize and build upon this knowledge as a foundation while introducing new practices. The intended goal for FTW was not simply to expose potential teachers to traditional teaching techniques but to also cultivate in them a desire to address the social inequities that plague society.

Jeff Acido, a Farrington graduate and former FTW participant, says the program was designed to inspire high school seniors to go into teaching.

"We had to go into middle schools and observe and become a teaching assistant in a classroom," says Acido, who now teaches at UHM. "The experience made me reflect on how I was as a middle school student and to appreciate the amazing teachers I had at Kalakaua and Farrington. It also made me realize that teaching is a calling rather than just a job."

While FTW successfully motivated students to become teachers, FTW ended after a decade of programming due to changes in HDOE priorities and support. FTW was, how-

ever, able to share its multicultural approach with the HDOE's developing educational assistant program.

Perhaps the first of OM's major initiatives ushering in a new phase in OM's evolution was the Pre-Freshman Engineering Project (PREP). Funded by a U.S. Department of Energy grant awarded to the UHM College of Engineering, PREP was a summer pre-engineering experience for 20 sixth graders from Waimanalo, Kalihi and Nanakuli. OM was tasked with coordinating PREP with the College of Engineering and other UHM resources. Students reviewed their math and science skills, went on field trips, highlighted different engineering applications and presented a summary of their summer experience to parents.

Following PREP's initial summer, OM coordinated a second federally-funded cohort and sought funds to extend the first cohort for a second summer session. As PREP moved into its third year, OM learned from participating students that engineering was only one of many interests students had.



(L to R): Maxilyn Tagata Tamasaka, Ronillie Josen, Liza Corpuz, Rouella Tilitile, Marrisa Ayag-garcia, Milli Macugay Asuncion, Marilyn Barayuga, Myrna Burigsay and Adrialina Guerrero at OM's 40th anniversary reunion.

Eventually, OM extended PREP to a three-year, pre-high school summer experience for each cohort.

When the original pre-engineering grant support ended after two years, the third PREP cohort was combined in a U.S. Department of Education grant. This new project, called the Hawaii Summer Academy (HSA), combined 20 PREP (renamed, the Pre-Freshman Enrichment Project) students with 20 students (ARTS) who were selected for their proficiency in music or fine arts. HSA was an innovative approach to enrichment, and all concerned—teachers, adminis-

trators and students—learned how the different curricula supported and enhanced each other.

While HSA was going on, OM decided to utilize the extra seats on buses transporting HSA students between their communities and UHM to transport participants in a new elementary school program called the Elementary Summer Program (ESP). With priority given to siblings of HSA students, ESP brought another 40-60 elementary school students to UHM for educational and recreational activities. This eased the burden of families

(continued on page 6)

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF
WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: ADOPTION OF
PATRICK JACOB ACE

NO.: 106 of 2015

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

TO: Joseph M. Umali

You are notified that the above Court has set a hearing on the termination of your rights as a natural parent of PATRICK JACOB ACE before the Honorable T.A. Kreiger, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania at 2:00 p.m. on March 16, 2016 in Courtroom No. 11 at the Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania at which time and place you may appear and be heard if you so desire.

Seth A. Tongchinsub, Esquire
Bassi, Vreeland & Associates, PC
111 Fallowfield Avenue
P O Box 144
Charleroi, PA 15022
724-483-5502

OPEN FORUM

Construction of Maui High School is Intentional Misuse of Taxpayer Money

By Rep. Bob McDermott

According to new information from the State Department of Education (DOE), the construction of a \$150 million high school planned for Kihei is not what is needed. I have long held that the greatest need and future growth dictate that Leeward Oahu should be the state's top priority. (See Table A)

Not only are schools in Ewa and Kapolei more overcrowded now, but they will continue to get more so, while Maui enrollment will actually diminish. (See Table B)

The DOE's own enrollment numbers and projections are clear—West Oahu is in urgent need of a new high school. The governor's new proposed building for Campbell is a half measure and the

day it's completed, Campbell and Kapolei will still be grossly over-crowded.

I fear that decisions on school CIP budgets are becoming totally politicized. DOE Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi has not provided guidance to the Legislature with regards to the number one priority for a new high school. She has refused to answer my written and pointed question: "What is the DOE's number one priority for a new high school?"

This has allowed legislators to carve up available money on the basis of favoritism and deal making at the state capitol. The DOE, which should be making recommendations on where new construction is really needed based on hard data, seems to want to have nothing to do with it. This can only be described as deliberate misfeasance and sadly, it is business

as usual.

The DOE has been co-opted to keep their mouths shut and go along with the powerful politicians who want to deliver pork to their islands. The numbers provided in Tables A and B show that it's not needed, not to

mention the huge operational costs of another high school being layered onto an already thinly stretched DOE budget. Once built, the implementation of the student weighting format will cause Maui and Baldwin high schools to have anemic funding level due to the transfer of students to Kihei, meaning loss of teach-

ers, programs and extracurricular activities.

I have called on Gov. Ige to restore transparency to his administrative departments and especially the DOE, so that legislators can be fully informed where facilities are actually needed before committing such large amounts in CIP budgeting.

TABLE A : CURRENT AND PROJECTED STUDENT ENROLLMENT (provided by the DOE)

	Leeward Oahu		Maui	
	Campbell	Kapolei	Baldwin	Maui
2015-2016	3,086	2,063	1,408	1,849
2020-2021	3,545	2,373	1,400	1,448
	New Students +769		New Students - 409	

TABLE B : PERCENT OF CAPACITY (provided by the DOE)

	Leeward Oahu		Maui	
	Campbell	Kapolei	Baldwin	Maui
2014-2015	151%	118%	88%	120%
2020-2021	177%	136%	83%	90%
Increase/Decrease	+23%	+18%	-5%	-30%

COVER STORY (from page 5, OPERATION MANONG....)

with multiple children to find childcare and kept young students engaged in school-related activities. Unfortunately, transportation costs dramatically increased over the years. After 10 years of operation and over 200 PREP and 100 ESP students, PREP was phased out.

During the school year, OMSS continued its tutoring and college recruitment activities. One of the more interesting and effective projects coordinated by OMSS student Ulysses Balmilero was the Central Oahu Sports League. Due to increased youth gang activities, OMSS started an

after-school sports league bringing students from Farrington, Waipahu, Pearl City and Aiea to meet at Pacheco Park in Pearl City. While boys played basketball and girls played volleyball, games were set up intentionally such that one team was always available for homework, study hall or a college recruitment activity. For a time, OM students provided rides to high school students needing transportation to Pacheco Park. Unfortunately, when UHM notified OM that liability issues prohibited the UH transport of minors, the Sports League ended after two

exciting years.

Another interesting partnership that was created in 2000 was between OMSS and the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council of the State Office of Youth Services (OYS). As a participant in the OYS Coalition for Ethnic and Cultural Diversity, OM students and staff worked on OYS-funded projects to address the ethnic overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system. Projects ranged from creating a survey and report of cultural competency training programs in Hawaii to coordinating a Molokai camp for youths using the *hooponopono* process of healing. OM embarked on a new OYS-funded research project that tracked arrested youths as they passed through the juvenile justice system. However, the project was cancelled due to administrative problems.

Recent Initiatives

A recently developed project is OMSS's Hawaii Undergraduate Initiative (HUI) for

first-year UHM students. Now in its fifth year, HUI provides a summer course and transition workshops for selected students graduating from Title I (low income) schools or are Pell Grant eligible. Courses are small and teachers selected for their ability to engage young students. During the school year, HUI students join previous cohorts in a HUI RIO (registered independent organization) where they can get tutoring and advice in taking classes.

Another exciting OMSS program is the Pasefika Passion Pipelinef (3P), coordinated by Tina Tauasosi-Posiulai. Funded by the UH Vice-President for Community Colleges, 3P allows OMSS to build upon its existing Pacific Islander outreach project, Tinumasalasala. 3P extends the outreach to all Pacific Islanders and adds recruitment for and support services at the UH community colleges. Because of the challenges for many Pacific Islanders, financial as well as

academic, starting their college experience at a community college is highly desirable. Because OMS already started outreach to various Pacific Islander communities, OMSS was able to take the lead in developing and implementing 3P.

OMSS has also advised student groups forming around various ethnic groups, including the Native American Student Association (NASA), the African American Student Alliance (AASA), the Pacific Islander Connections (PIC), La Raza Unido (Latino) and TASSO (Samoan).

Student Development

Before UH and other universities nationwide began to promote the idea of "service learning," OM/OMSS was committed to students going beyond the classroom to volunteer or work in the community. A large part of OM/OMSS is working and developing college students not just to be good workers but also to be in-

(continued on page 8)

visit our websites @

www.thefilipinochronicle.com
and
www.efilipinochronicle.com

and enjoy the e-copy of
the hawaii-filipino chronicle!

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

HART to Remove Rail Equipment on Farrington Highway

Officials from the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) and Kiewit are advising residents, businesses and commuters in the Waipahu area that construction equipment used to build the overhead guideway along Farrington Highway will be removed during the coming weeks.

The work is expected to start February 29, 2016 and take 7-8 weeks to complete. It

will be done in phases and include the installation of the last segments of guideway in the Farrington Highway section of the project. The work will take place between Mokuola Street and Awamoku Street. Traffic will be contraflowed onto one side of Farrington Highway. Reduced lanes and left turn restrictions will be in place at the Mokuola Street intersection. Honolulu Police Department special duty officers and/or flaggers



will be on site to assist.

HART is asking motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians to be alert as they move through

the construction area, observe posted speed limits, follow traffic signage or HPD/flagger instructions and to allow for

extra time through the construction zone.

Bus riders are also reminded that bus stops in the area will be impacted and to call 848-5555 or visit www.thebushawaii.org to get updated bus stop and/or schedule changes.

For updates on work days and times related to lane closures, go online to: www.honolulutransit.org/trafficupdates or contact the HART hotline at 566-2299.

State DOH Lab Gears Up For Zika Virus Testing

The State Department of Health (DOH) State Laboratories Division is joining national efforts to control the spread of Zika Virus. The division recently provided confirmatory testing for samples from American Samoa and the Marshall Islands to support and verify disease outbreak activity in U.S. Affiliated Pacific Island jurisdictions.

“Hawaii is fortunate to have an experienced and capa-

ble public health laboratory that can serve our state with timely and quality testing under emergency conditions,” says State DOH Director Dr. Virginia Pressler. “That same capability is not available in many other areas of the Pacific, so providing lab support to these areas, when we can, is critical to controlling the spread of diseases and reducing the risk of introduction to Hawaii.”

The Zika has been linked

to neurological ailments such as paralysis and devastating birth defects. This month, DOH began using a Centers For Disease Control (CDC) developed real-time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for the virus. With this recent capability, DOH provided the first laboratory evidence of Zika transmission to officials in American Samoa and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

“It’s always a balance to ensure our state needs are met first, but the staff here is more

than willing to support national efforts,” says State Laboratories Director Dr. Christian Whelen. “This work helps to better prepare us for potential issues that could arise in our state, and identifying and controlling outbreaks in the Pacific benefits all of us.”

While PCR is the best test during early onset of symptoms, testing for antibody to the viruses is preferred after about a week of illness. The CDC is shipping antibody test materials to Hawaii so that the

State Laboratories Division can establish these capabilities over the next few weeks.

DOH continues to work with the healthcare community, state, county and federal officials to prepare for infectious diseases that threaten Hawaii and the Pacific. The State Laboratories Division administers a statewide laboratories program which conducts and regulates scientific analysis in support of environmental quality, health and safety, and infectious disease monitoring and control activities.

Maui Fil Chamber Golf Tourney Set for April 23

The Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation will hold its Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at The Dunes at Maui Lani. The tournament provides funds for the Maui Filipino Chamber Foundation’s scholarship programs.

“Thirteen students were awarded scholarships in 2015 through the Foundation’s generous partners and because of the success of last year’s Scholarship Golf Tournament” says Bill Ruidas, tournament chair.

According to Foundation President Kit Zulueta, the Chamber has awarded scholarships to 123 high school seniors and 4 students at the Maui Culinary Academy since 1995.

There are three different levels of sponsorship: Platinum (\$1,100 for six golfers);

Gold (\$500 for three golfers); and Team (\$375 for three golfers). Tee Sponsors are also available at \$100.

Golfers will also have an opportunity to win a hole-in-one prize at each of the par three holes sponsored by Valley Isle Motors and win fantastic door prizes with the grand door prize of a \$500 travel certificate.

The deadline for the three person full scramble tournament is March 31, 2016 but those who submit their paid application by March 15, 2016 will be eligible for an early bird drawing for a flat screen television sponsored by Friends of Keith Regan.

Applications may be downloaded online at www.mauifilipinochamber.com or by calling (808) 873-8605 or email foundation@mauifilipinochamber.com.

GARFIELD LAW GROUP

FULL SERVICE IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM

Free Immigration Consultations Offered Now!
Libre Nga Konsultasyon Maipanggep Ti Imigrasion!
Libreng Konsultasyon Tungkol Sa Imigrasyon!



ONLY IMMIGRATION SERVICES

- Removal and Deportation Defense
- Family-based Immigration/Waivers
- Citizenship and Naturalization
- Business/Employment Visas
- Investor Visas
- Political Asylum
- Obama Executive Action Advice



Top Washington DC immigration law firm has opened an office in Honolulu and is offering **FREE immigration consultations** with founding partner, David Garfield. Please call or email for an appointment.



HONOLULU OFFICE
 Topa Financial Center
 Bishop Street Tower
 700 Bishop Street, Suite 2100
 Honolulu, HI 96813

WASHINGTON DC OFFICE
 1634 I Street, NW, Suite 400
 Washington DC 20006

CALL: 808-439-8555

EMAIL: davidg@garfieldlaw.com VISIT: <http://garfieldlaw.com/>

The Missing Half of Congress's Job

By Lee H. Hamilton

Every now and then, I'm asked if I miss serving in Congress. My stock answer is that no, I don't really miss it, but there are definitely times when I'd like to jump right into a policy debate or be in a position to call congressional hearings.

This is one of those times.

Over the last few weeks, several media outlets have reported that U.S. military commanders are suggesting that they need more American troops on the ground in places like Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and, most recently, Libya. And last month, talking about our efforts to defeat ISIS, Defense Secretary Ash Carter told CNBC, "We're looking for opportunities to do more and there will be boots on the ground and I want to be clear about that."

This ought to have Congress working overtime to pre-

pare for these requests. It's rare to find a military commander who doesn't want more troops: they face serious security challenges, especially in the Middle East. But one can be sympathetic and at the same time skeptical, or at least probing.

So Congress should be pushing very hard to get answers to some very tough questions. Where are we headed with these proposed troop increases? If they don't work, what's next? What's our exit strategy? What are the prospects for negotiations? We keep saying we're going to support the moderate opposition in Syria: who are they, what do they bring to the table, and how are we recalibrating our approach in the face of Russian airstrikes on behalf of the current regime?

We insist that we're going to destroy ISIS, but no other country in the international coalition fighting the Islamic State seems willing to put forces on the ground. Are we going to be the only one? And

just how does the administration propose to destroy ISIS?

Congress has two key functions in our system of government: legislation and oversight. Most public attention — and certainly most media attention — focuses on policy-making and legislative maneuvering. But Capitol Hill's role in overseeing the executive branch is just as important.

That's because in seeking answers, Congress can force the President and his top advisors to articulate and defend their policies, their objectives, the steps they're taking (or proposing) to implement those objectives, and the impact they expect from their policies. In other words, Congress needs to act on behalf of the American people to ensure that major policy requests are looked at from every angle and fleshed out as thoroughly as possible so that we go into new situations — like putting young American men and women on the ground against a dangerous enemy — with a

clear-headed understanding of why we're taking these steps.

This means that our representatives on Capitol Hill should ask tough questions, demand responsive answers, and insist on a crystal-clear explanation of what the policy is and what alternatives are available. They need to bring in experts from outside the administration to critique the administration's proposals and outline alternatives of their own. They need to press the administration on what resources are needed to obtain its objectives: in this case, how many troops, how much money, what are the risks to American lives and interests?

This demands walking a careful line that Congress hasn't been especially good at negotiating of late. It has to be both a partner and a critic, supporting the President when it thinks he's doing something right, criticizing him when it thinks he's wrong, helping the administration craft policy that is in tune with the nation's needs, and putting alternatives

forward when it sees a better way.

Simply put, government functions better when Congress pursues robust oversight. It sharpens objectives, improves government performance, makes the bureaucracy more responsive, and curtails wasteful spending.

Sadly, this key responsibility has fallen into disrepair. Really tough overseers of the administration's policies — lawmakers who are interested in government performance, not political one-upmanship — have grown scarce on Capitol Hill. But if we want to restore the vigor of the Congress, getting it to look into every nook and cranny of government is vital. The military's pursuit of growing troop strength and new strategies in the Middle East would be a good place to start.

Lee Hamilton is a Distinguished Scholar, Indiana University School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

COVER STORY (from page 6, OPERATION MANONG....)

dividuals concerned with the welfare of others. Here are a few shared memories:

Jeff Acido, former UH student regent and FTW student: "OMSS helped me in my academic path and personal development by introducing me to places and people I would normally not meet had I just gone to school and got a service sector job. I met teachers who taught in a very radical way that got me to believe in my own Filipino community, my own community's dreams and

servicing my community. Surrounded by other Filipinos and Pacific Islanders who are trying to make a difference and change the status quo is really inspiring and forces you to find your own way of contributing to a more dignified life."

Aovai Cole, HUI and 3Pstudent: "Working for the OMSS has to be one of the most well rounded cultural experiences I have ever had in my life. Being a Samoan in the U.S., I already felt like I had a good handle on what the term



OMSS' Jabril Hassan speaks to Waianae Intermediate School students about the importance of higher education.

'diversity' means, but working in this office has given me a much better idea. Being a part of an office that celebrates each and every person's differences to support and promote higher education for all is a truly fan-

tastic experience."

Cheyona Lopez, BIN-I (volunteer program) coordinator: OMSS has also helped me develop on a personal level. I have become a better problem-solver, more responsible, organized, a team member, and overall a better person.

Jabril Hassan, former OMSS worker: "Through OMSS events and programs, I gained exposure to a wide variety of cultural perspectives. I gained a better understanding of the diverse communities across Oahu and realized that I have a passion for community development and a desire to learn more about different cultures. After serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines, I have enrolled in graduate studies at Seattle University in criminal justice, with an emphasis on research."

minute KNDI radio show), the Kulea Project Native Hawaiian community-based development project (coordinated by Ioane Hoomanawanui), as well as partnerships with the Japanese-American Citizens League, Filipino Community Center and the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii.

One could pose the question if there remains relevancy and purpose in today's world for a program like OM/OMSS which is nearing half a century of work. Yet, societies are always divided and stratified into groups of "haves" and "have nots." Whether it is wealth, land, property, knowledge, political clout, citizenship, cultural legitimacy and especially in education opportunities—even our society of "aloha" neglects many of its peoples.

OM/OMSS has always addressed the issues and challenges facing the "have nots." Its work is far from done and it is hoped that OM/OMSS will continue to be a conscience and means to help alleviate some of these inequities.

Into the Future

There are many more programs and activities OMSS has conducted over the past 40 years, including The Filipino Community Network (a 30-

Build A Rock® Solid Future

LIFE • AUTO • ANNUITIES

Tel. 808-935-1948
Ditas Guillermo Udani
Premier Agent
The Prudential Insurance Company
of America
CA State Lic#OD90884
www.freditas.udani@prudential.com



"I'll help you build your
financial future on a strong
foundation."



Prudential
Financial

Growing and Protecting Your Wealth

Insurance and annuities issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark NJ and its affiliates.
"Availability varies by carrier by carrier and state."

0153198-00002-00 Exp. 12/2/10

HEALTH & FAMILY

Why MINDFULNESS Has Become a Trend and How You Can Do it

By Kelli Kennedy (Associated Press)

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Drop-in meditation studios are proliferating in major cities like New York and Los Angeles and meet-ups are becoming the new book clubs as more people are craving ways to unplug, pushing meditation practices and mindfulness movements from hippie to mainstream. We asked leading meditation and mindfulness teachers to help demystify these ancient traditions.

What is Mindfulness

Mindfulness is staying connected to the present moment.

"You start to let go of all the accumulated stress and information. So it's not only a time to not ingest, it's a time to let the body let go," says Emily Fletcher, a former Broadway actress and founder of Ziva Meditation in New York which offers in person and online training.

Mindfulness also can help curb overeating and other unhealthy habits. The reason: Practicing mindfulness makes one feel more satiated — rather than, for example, rushing through a sandwich while continuing to work, practitioners learn to enjoy every bite, says meditation teacher Sharon Salzberg.

What's the Difference between Mindfulness and Meditation?

While meditating is usually associated with a sitting practice often guided by the breath, mindfulness extends that practice into everyday life and focuses on cultivating awareness in the present. Sometimes compared to mental strength training, mindful-

ness can be practiced washing the dishes, driving to work, brushing your teeth and during other routine tasks. The point is to prevent your mind from wandering, projecting fear and worry from the past and future and training yourself to accept and enjoy the moment.

Why Has Mindfulness Become such a Buzz-word?

Experts say it's the antidote to the fast-paced tech world we live in. There's slowly been a backlash against a distracted, multi-tasking lifestyle to one that is more self-aware, live in the moment attitude.

"We're just ingesting, ingesting information all day long," Fletcher says.

Adds Salzberg: "We get caught in these spirals of addiction. You remain unfulfilled. That's why we seek more and more intensity and more and more stimulation in order to feel content and it never works."

Are there Any Real Health Benefits?

Experts say mindfulness offers a rest for the brain, increased productivity and the ability to turn off the unfulfilling autopilot of the daily grind and instead live in the present moment.

"The mind body connection isn't just something you feel. There is a physiology that begins at the molecular level that goes all the way to the organ level," said Dr. Darshan Mehta, medical director of the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. "It challenges this conventional wisdom that as we get older our brains shrink in size. That's true for most people, but for people who do have a consistent regular mind body prac-

tice that may not necessarily be the case."

I Started on My Own and It's Making Me Feel Anxious. Is that Normal?

Experts stress the importance of starting with a teacher or one of the numerous apps or online videos. For some, a YouTube meditation video or a mindfulness exercise without guidance might feel forced and unfulfilling at first.

"The more you push the mind, the more it will do the opposite," says Annelies Richmond, a director at the Art of Living Foundation, who helped bring mindfulness, meditation and yoga to New York city public schools.

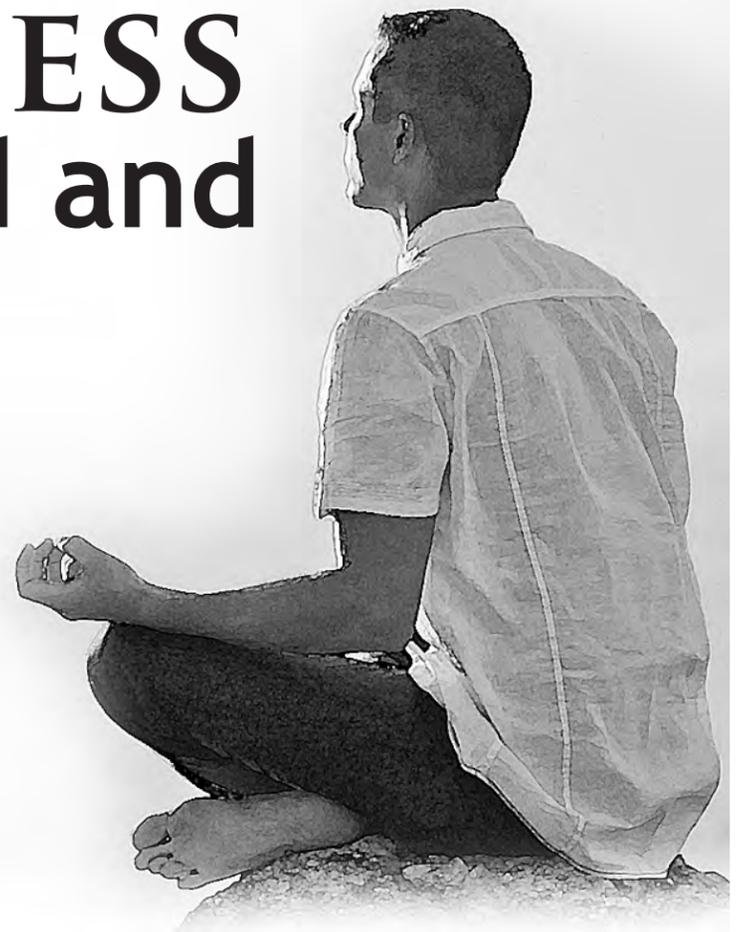
Instead, mindfulness should be a natural byproduct of a daily meditation practice.

"When you just tell someone just go close your eyes and meditate, it can become like a torture. There are a bunch of thoughts and you don't know what to do with them. Sometimes you feel more restless being aware of all those thoughts," says Richmond.

What Kind of Classes and Apps Are Out There?

At Unplug Meditation in Los Angeles, students can choose classes to unblock chakras, cultivate intuition or a breathing class set to modern music for \$22. In Central Park, 1,500 people signed up for a free group meditation this summer called The Big Quiet and 800 people sold out a New York concert venue, paying \$20 to sit in silence.

"It's one of the most profound experiences you can share with other humans, especially when you're in the hundreds. There's something about being in quiet and sharing that with a group that creates almost like a vortex. It's t



like the collective energy of the room starts to swirl together," said event organizer Jesse Israel, whose invite-only Medi Club in New York has grown to 1,000 people who vie for 200 spots at monthly meet-ups.

Emily Fletcher is the host of a new podcast for Gaiam's recently launched-app, which offers nearly two dozen teach-

ers from different lineages for \$2.99. Most are between four to 15-minutes and Fletcher's offering include guided visualization for a first date, sports performance and test taking. 1 Giant Mind's free app includes sessions between 10 and 20 minutes with a guide, music or silence. Headspace's popular app offers 10-minute guided meditations. (www.philstar.com)

ADVERTISE NOW AND SEE HOW THE FACE OF BUSINESS IS CHANGING!

No matter how small your ad, it gets our readers attention!
CALL 678-8930 OR GO TO OUR WEBSITES @
www.thefilipinochronicle.com

Find your way to savings.



Guy Matsumoto, Agent
94-849 Lumiaina Street, Suite 104
Waialeale Professional Center
Waipahu, HI 96797
Bus: 671-7888
guy@guymatsumoto.com

Save an average of \$500*

Stop here for great rates with
America's #1 car insurance company**.
Give me a call today at 671-7888.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

State Farm
statefarm.com®

*Average annual per household savings based on a national 2012 survey of new policyholders who reported savings by switching to State Farm.

**Based on A.M. Best written premium.

1005000.1 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company - Bloomington, IL

BOOK REVIEW

THREE COOKBOOKS: COLLECTIBLES FOR ASPIRING CHEFS

By Rose Churma

Cuisine is one of the more important facets of a country's culture. The books featured below not only describe how favorite Filipino dishes are prepared, but also provide the context of how culinary practices evolved. All have beautiful photos of how each dish can be presented. For inquiries, please call 808 358 2868 or via email at <kalamansibooks@gmail.com>.

Flavors of the Philippines, A Culinary Guide to the Best of the Islands. Rosales-Barretto, Glenda. Reprinted by Anvil Publishing, Inc. 6th printing in 2015. (first printing 1997 by Via Mare). 111p. Softcover. \$26.50 (www.bookbook.com)

The book offers an introduction to Asia's most comforting and pleasing cuisine. For the very first time, the taste of Philippine cuisine is captured in a collection of recipes echoing the diverse gastronomic influences and cooking traditions of the 7,100 islands which comprise the Philippines. The collection leads you on a culinary journey through the different regions of the country, from the bustling city of Manila to exotic Palawan as you encounter the different iconic dishes. The recipes in this cookbook were collected to showcase the best of the islands.

KULINARYA: A Guidebook to Philippine Cuisine. Expanded 2nd Edition. Edited by Michaela Fenix and photographed by Neal Oshima. Anvil Publishing Inc. Soft-

cover. 240p. \$35.00 (www.bookbook.com)

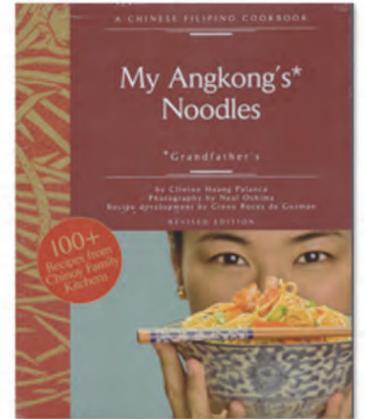
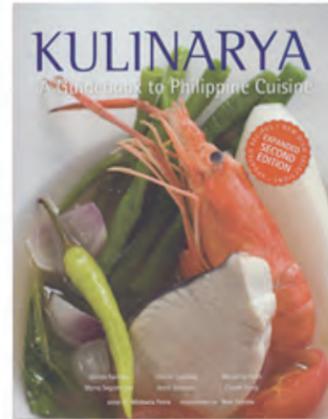
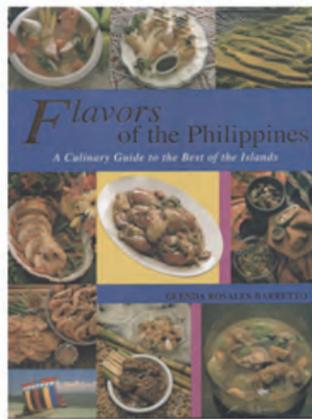
Among the contributing chefs are: Glenda Barretto, Conrad Calalang, Myrna Segismundo, Jessie Sincioco, Claude Tayag and Margarita Fores, who was recently rated as the best female chef in Asia. The chefs have succeeded in capturing the feel and essence of traditional Filipino cuisine through this guidebook which has become a staple of Filipino kitchens. This expanded second edition has a more carefully thought out selection of recipes from the classical to the regional

dishes. It includes some best kept culinary secrets – a must have for lovers of Filipino food.

MY ANGKONG'S* NOODLES: 100+ Recipes from Chinoy Family Kitchens. by Clinton Huang Palanca and photographed by Neal Oshima. Recipe development by Ginny Rocas de Guzman. Revised edition. Softcover. \$40 (www.bookbook.com)

In this groundbreaking book, the authors take us into the fascinating and unexplored world of Chinese Filipino food culture. From the kitchens of

migrant families to the eateries of Binondo, from market stalls to gourmet restaurants, this book is a journey into the cuisine of Chinese migrants who made the Philippines home. Part recipe book, part photo essay, part ethnographic study, these pages capture treasured recipes and secret techniques passed down from generation to generation. "... reminds us of the power of great storytelling to connect memory and imagination with appetite...a remarkable story of Chinese Diaspora." Grace Young, author of *Stir Frying to the Sky's Edge*.



The Filipinos of Kauai Dream of A Place for All, A Gathering Place for Everyone to Enhance Cultural, Educational and Social Programs as well as Promote Cross Cultural Exchange in Our Multi-Ethnic Milieu.



Please help us in this monumental undertaking. We humbly ask for your support and generous donations. All donations are tax deductible. To make a contribution, please call 808-645-0257 or go to our website at kauaiphilippineculturalcenter.org

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS DREAM A REALITY!

BUSINESS PROFILE

J AND L PAPAYA FARM: 17 YEARS OF PASSION FOR PAPAYA GROWING

By Dennis Galolo

The hours are long and the work is physically strenuous, but for Big Island papaya farmers Jimmy and Erlinda Bernardo, their passion for growing and harvesting the delicious tropical fruit makes the effort well worthwhile.

For the past 17 years, the couple—owners of J and L Papaya Farm—rises each day well before the sun comes up and doesn't return home until dark. Theirs is a small, family-run business that has managed to survive the ups-and-downs of the economy as well as Mother Nature.

But why papaya? For starters, papayas are a perfect health fruit and an excellent source of nutrients and vitamins. They originated in the lowland tropics of South America, but today can be found growing wild everywhere in the tropics and subtropics.

Papayas are also easy to grow year-round especially in a tropical climate like the Big Island and can be exported for consumption. Papayas are fast-growing shade trees that look really good too.

Humble Beginnings

Jimmy and Erlinda are originally from Ilocos Norte in the Philippines. Jimmy was in the Philippine Constabulary Army for 14 years before moving to Hawaii in 1982. During a family vacation to Ilocos several years later, he met and fell in love with Erlinda.

Jimmy returned to Hawaii but continued to court Erlinda over the next 7 years, finally marrying her in 1986. She eventually joined him in

Hawaii in 1991 with their eldest son—who was 3 years old at the time—in tow. Several months later, Erlinda was hired as a preschool educational aid.

Jimmy began his career in the papaya industry in 1982 as a picker for Diamond Head Papaya Company in Keaau on the Big Island. He also worked part-time for several private papaya growers doing a variety of tasks. After three years of learning how to plant, fertilize, spray and pack the produce, he struck out on his own, determined to launch his own successful papaya farm.

In 1999, Jimmy secured a lease for several acres of land for farming. He had always wanted to be his own boss but soon discovered the many responsibilities that come with running your own small business.

Erlinda toiled faithfully alongside her husband and also worked as a preschool aide to help make ends meet during the difficult early years. She continues to work a second job as a part-time teacher at Keaau Elementary.

The entire family lends a helping hand during harvesting and packing days when their papayas are shipped fresh to open markets on Oahu, Kauai, Maui, the Big Island and Canada.

The farm work is done by sons Lordson and Jay R, while only girl Lea and youngest Jay Jay are in charge of packing, grading, sorting, paperwork and other transactions. The family also hires students on a part-time basis on Sundays and after school hours for packing. On Sundays, the work starts after church at about 11 am and



Jimmy Bernardo, owner of J & L Papaya Farm, shown harvesting papayas from his farm in Keaau, Big Island.

goes until 7 pm. On weekdays, they start working right after school until about 6 pm or 7 pm.

A Labor of Love

Erlinda says growing papayas is like taking care of children. When planting papaya, she starts with making the seedlings. As they mature, there is a lot of work to do, including weeding around each papaya plant, fertilizing and cutting of leaves when the plants are 6-8 months old.

"Papayas start to give fruits as early as 1 year old," Erlinda says. "From seedlings until about 2 years, papaya plants need tender love and care. It's just like caring for a child."

There are also papaya diseases to deal with, along with soaring costs for herbicides and fertilizers. Erlinda says that while papaya prices remain at the same levels they were 10 years ago, prices for fertilizer and herbicides have since tripled.

There are also challenges beyond their control, such as vandalism and the GMO debate.

Vandals struck the farm in July 2011 and destroyed about five acres worth of papaya

crops. The perpetrators returned two years later in 2013 and cut down about 100 papaya trees. Recovering from the damage proved trying for the family, who took out several loans to cover costs.

Although rewards were offered, the offenders were never caught.

"We tried to stay positive and never gave up," says Erlinda, who admits that the family could not afford to install security cameras. "Everyone worked harder, prayed harder, tried to live simpler and planted more acreage."

The GMO Debate

In 2013, debate raged on about the dangers of genetically-modified papaya and other crops. Activists contended that GMO crops pose a risk to the public's health and ecosystem. After hearing the contentious debate, the Big Island County Council ultimately passed a bill that prohibits all new genetically-altered crops but granted an exemption for papaya farmers like the Bernardos.

They grow a variety called the rainbow papaya which is more resistant to viruses and other diseases. The Bernardos tried to grow a non-GMO pa-

paya which did not survive due to a virus.

"We lost a lot," Erlinda says about their failed attempts to harvest the non-GMO papaya. "Our sales decreased during the debate. Customers also began asking for labels, which added to the overall expense."

As the farming industry changes, so must the Bernardos, who do their best to keep up with the latest trends and technology by attending workshops and training sessions on the latest agricultural issues.

The couple's two older sons have also ventured out with their own papaya acres but continue to lend a helping hand. Their total annual gross revenues vary from \$250,000 to \$300,000 depending on the weather and forces beyond their control.

"Thank goodness there was no huge calamity this year," Erlinda says. "It's really hard to make a profit as a papaya farmer but at least we are able to pay our bills and supplies that we need each month."

"But we know we can make it. Above all, we have strong faith in each other as a family and in the Lord who is the center of our lives."



PASTOR David E. Sumrall

with PASTOR ALISHA SUMRALL

The Gospel.

Learn It.
Believe It.
Live It.
Preach It.

Starts August 17, 2015

Monday to Friday

6:00 - 6:30 AM

KWHE TV 14

Oceanic Cable Channel 11
Hawaiian Telcom TV Channel 14

1188 Bishop Street, Suite 502, Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel. (808) 538-1414

www.cathedralofpraisehawaii.com • www.facebook/cop.hawaii

CANDID PERSPECTIVES

(from page 3, 30 YEARS ...)

tator Ferdinand Marcos.

It really doesn't matter if you experienced EDSA in the Philippines or not.

If the Philippines is in your heart, and in your blood, even an American Filipino like me knows the scar Marcos left on a community.

Marcos was the dividing line. You were Pro-Marcos or you were Anti-Marcos.

If you were from Ilocano parentage like I was, then there was a generation gap.

If you were American, it gave you a slight bit of objectivity, but only slight.

Remember it Presidents, Reagan and Bush loved Marcos. Who can forget how President George Herbert Walker Bush once praised Marcos for "adherence to democratic principles and to the democratic processes".

Oh yeah, remember the assassination of Sen. Benigno Aquino?

I did not cover the EDSA revolution in 1986. But I covered the funeral of Sen. Aquino and the amazing funeral procession that drew nearly 1 million people to the streets of Manila in 1983.

"That was the precursor to People Power," Del Carmen told me. "It spelled in big bold letters, there is nothing this government can do to you and would do it with impunity."

It took another 3 years for EDSA.

And now 30 years later, for all that Marcos did to the Philippines, he hasn't been obliterated from the national memory.

For those under 30, they don't need to forget. Forgetting is built-in when history is like Snapchat.

It's the only way the Marcos name can be as strong as ever.

Maybe it's Catholicism from Spanish Colonialism. Maybe it's just the Philippines doesn't know better.

You know, like Trump who wins Nevada across all demographics and proudly proclaims, "I love the poorly educated."

Is that politics in the Philippines?

Recently, Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is coming on strong as a viable vice-presidential candidate. And no one is thinking, "Could this be the sequel?"

It's an odd coincidence that the rise comes as Benigno Aquino III exits, the son of Cory, the ultimate beneficiary of People Power.

Not Noyonoy's Fault

In his tenure, he wasn't even Cory in yellow power drag.

Cory's yellow garb made her a symbol of a popular movement. But her

son has been a reminder that a generation didn't achieve a lot of what people had hoped their power would bring.

Aquino the son has proven to be an affable if not inspirational leader: Nonoy the serviceable, mild mannered oligarch.

He doesn't invoke his mother's revolution. But maybe that's the problem. Even Cory didn't invoke all the hopes that people bestowed on her widow's revolution.

Thirty years later, the longtime relationship with the U.S. military, despite a brief period were the bases were kicked out, is back, and maybe more urgently than ever to protect the West Philippine Sea.

The business district Makati is more like modern contemporary Asian than ever.

And yet poverty still seems as rampant as ever.

As good as the economy may be for some, there is still Smokey Mountain, that ultimate landmark in the Philippines.

Still smoking, and still open for business, and these days, you can google its phone number.

For me, Smokey Mountain is still a powerful symbol to me.

No mountain, it's a large landfill where if memory serves, I saw people work and live.

To me it's the sign that nothing much has changed in 30 years.

But from an American Filipino point of view, this has changed.

At no time in 30 years has the term oligarchy been mentioned more to describe... America.

In 30 years, the U.S. has such a shrinking middle class, it's actually a lot more like the Philippines than ever.

Inequality is a campaign issue between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders.

In the Philippines, inequality is still a given.

So when you have vinegar make sinigang.

Filipinos who were fortunate to immigrate or leave, just seem happier being Global Filipinos, and keeping the Philippines in their heart but from a distance.

How to acquit one's remorse

Ten million overseas Filipinos can't be wrong \$24 billion times.

Remit, remit, remit.

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award-winning journalist and commentator who writes from Northern California. He recently won the 2015 Dr. Suzanne Ahn Award for Civil Rights and Social Justice from the Asian American Journalists Association, California.

LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Prepare for H-1B Filing Now

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will once again open its doors to H-1B cap applications and considering that the applications for last fiscal year was 233,000, it is safe to assume that it will exceed this figure this year.

Ultimately, the applications are expected to exceed the quota which is at 65,000 for foreign workers in specialty occupations and 20,000 for graduates with advanced degrees from the US. And if the H-1B petitions go beyond the cap, the USCIS will conduct a lottery to determine which petitions will make it to the cap.

With that in mind, it is best

to be prepared early to avoid delays. US companies and employers intending to hire foreign workers must start working on all the paper works for the H-1B petitions now to be ready for the April 1 filing.

For instance, the approval and certification of the labor condition application (LCA) with the Department of Labor (DOL) in itself takes about seven business days and that should be considered in the timeframe. In fact, it is recommended that LCAs be prepared and submitted to the DOL as early as February.

It is also best to be ready with all necessary documentations because the USCIS will issue a Request For Evidence (RFE) if your petition is not sufficient to grant said request. When RFEs are issued, this can delay the approval of the petition sometimes way beyond the October 1 start day.

RFEs are often about the position open for H-1B workers, the qualifications and de-

gree held by said worker and whether that matches with what is desired by the company. Sometimes it also looks into whether the candidate's education and/or experience are equivalent to a US bachelor's degree.

Petitions not selected during the lottery will be rejected. The petition and the fee will be returned except in cases of multiple filings. Thus, it is advisable not to file multiple petitions for one H-1B worker because that can result in the denial of all petitions and the fees paid will not be refunded. Related employers such as parent and subsidiary companies, however, are not precluded from filing petitions on behalf of the same H-1B so long as it is for different positions and based on legitimate needs of the employers.

H-1B petitions may also be accompanied with a request for premium processing but this will not increase the probability of getting an H-1B number. It will, however, be issued re-

ceipts faster than those under regular processing and in case the USCIS conducts a lottery, petitions filed under premium processing will know the results more quickly.

In preparing the H-1B petition, employers must indicate their true intention regarding the work site of the H-1B worker. If the H-1B worker will not work at their headquarters but in a client worksite, this fact must be stated in the petition. Criminal charges have been filed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) against employers for stating anything other than the truth.

An employer who intends to assign the H-1B worker in another work site on October 1 should state it in the petition and the Labor Condition Application (LCA) even if the employer is still unable to specify the worksite at this time.

If the H-1B petition comes with a request for change of

status, the petition must be accompanied with documentary evidence of the nonimmigrant status of the beneficiary through September 30, 2016.

Work authorization for F-1 students under Optional Practical Training (OPT) who have timely filed an H-1B petition and requested for change of status shall be extended until September 30 when the petition is approved or while the petition is pending. Students who completed their OPT but are within valid grace period will receive automatic extension of their authorized stay. However, they will not be allowed to work during the period.

If you have everything and all necessary documentations, it is best to file the H-1B petition on March 31 to be received at the USCIS by overnight mail delivery on April 1.

REUBEN S. SEGURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at (212) 695 5281 or log on to his website at www.seguritan.com

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hirono Promotes Permanent Tax Credits For Middle Class

With the federal tax filing deadline set for April 18, 2016, U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono and advocates urge Hawaii families to utilize helpful tax credits, now that such benefits have been made permanent by Congress. Representatives from the Taxpayer Advocate Service, the AARP Foundation Tax Aide program and Catholic Charities Hawaii joined Hirono in promoting the tax benefits and free tax services available to seniors and low-income households.

Advocates are reminding Hawaii families to check their eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC), which were made permanent as part of the U.S. Senate's FY2016 omnibus package signed into law in December 2015.

"As Hawaii families start preparing their 2015 taxes, we want to make sure that they are

taking advantage of every tax credit they've earned, which will reduce the amount of taxes eligible families will have to pay, or perhaps even provide a tax refund," says Hirono. "This extra cash will allow families to purchase more food, pay rent or meet other basic needs. For years I have supported expanding the EITC and CTC and making these tax benefits permanent."

According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), approximately 108,000 households in Hawaii claimed an average EITC of more than \$2,200 last year. However, one out of every five taxpayers who are eligible for the EITC nationwide fail to claim the credit.

"Last year, AARP Foundation Tax Aide counselors helped Hawaii taxpayers realize more than \$1 million in Earned Income Tax Credits and more than \$500,000 in Child Tax Credits,"

says AARP Hawaii State Director Barbara Kim Stanton. "This money made a significant difference in the lives of seniors and their families. We urge taxpayers to take advantage of the tax credits they're entitled to when filing their returns."

Individuals who received an Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC) for their health insurance coverage in 2015 are also reminded that they must file a tax return to be eligible for the credit again next year.

Free tax preparation help is available for seniors and low-income families through the IRS and AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program. To find Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for Elderly (TCE) sites call 1-888-227-7669. VITA sites where Hawaii residents can receive free help in filing their taxes can be found at <https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers>.



Homework Is What I Do Best!

JESSIE R. KOPPEL, RA, SRES

- Experienced & Trusted Realtor since 1987
- Senior Real Estate Specialist
- Experienced Residential and Commercial Sales and Leasing
- Member of Muscular Dystrophy Assoc. and ALS Ohana Hawaii
- Fluent in Tagalog & Visayan Language

Locations LLC-Diamond Head Office
Cell: 808-222-0224
Direct: 808-738-8971

e-mails: jrkoppel@hawaii.rr.com; jessie.koppel@locationsllc.com

IMPORTS GIFT SHOP & MINI-MART

82 Ala Malama Street
Kaunakakai Hawaii 96748
PHONE NO: 553-5734

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| • Baskets, Lauhala Mats | • Quilts & Notions |
| • Books, Notecards | • Refreshments |
| • Fine & Fashion Jewelry | • Seashells |
| • Groceries | • Shoes & Accessories |
| • Handbags, Hats | • Sport & Dress Clothing |
| • Hawaiiana | • Surfing Line |
| • Jewelry Repair, Resetting & Resizing | • Surfwear & Surfboards |
| • Molokai Arts, Crafts, Supplies | • Sundries |
| • Philippine Products Dried & Frozen | • T-shirts, Sweatshirts |



ONE STOP SHOPPING!

OPEN 7 DAYS
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Sailing with a Thousand Fireflies

By Alixandra Caole Vila

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan — Palawan has always been a tropical travel destination known for its pristine beaches for diving, island hopping and snorkeling. But did you know that Palawan is also a perfect place to have an intimate moment with nature's little creatures, too?

Set along the banks of Puerto Princesa's historic Iwahig River, the Iwahig Firefly Watching Tour, allows you to revel in nature's beauty, and in particular, to witness the display of flickering beetles we call "fireflies" or "alitap-tap."

Fireflies are winged beetles known for their bioluminescent characteristic. As species that dwell in humid, warm environments, fireflies find Palawan a perfect habitat. Fireflies, however, are super-sensitive to their environment as they can only thrive in clean, natural places such as wet, wooded areas.

Iwahig River, being under the jurisdiction of Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm is among the least disturbed river-estuary systems in Puerto Princesa. With its clean, estuarine ecosystems that house a very diverse array of wildlife such as talakitok, lapulapu, shrimps, crabs and even bioluminescent planktons, fireflies find home in some mangrove trees along the river bank, making it one

of the city's most sought after tourist destinations.

To experience the extraordinary tour, you have to travel 30 to 45 minutes from the city center. There are a lot of travel agencies that already include the Iwahig firefly watching tour in their itinerary package. Just in case there's none, you can always go with your group via van or tricycle rental for a cheap price.

Upon reaching the ecotourism and wildlife park, you will be ushered in the registration area where you will have to pay the P 600 fee (boat rental for three persons). After paying, each of you will be given life vests for safety purposes and will be given a short orientation to inform you about the do's and don'ts during the tour.

The tour, which starts after sunset, lets you experience approximately 30 to 45 minutes of serene boat cruise along a 15 to 20 ft. deep brackish water with 1 kilometer wide stretch of the mangrove perimeter. The river is actually around 7 kilometers long, but for the tourists safety, the trip is cut short.

At the sight, the boatman/guide will discuss with you a lot of interesting scientific facts about the fireflies, including the environment they are living in.

In an exclusive tour in Iwahig River, with some members of the press on February 16, our boatman and tour guide, Jonathan, said fireflies produce a "light" in the



Set along the banks of Puerto Princesa's historic Iwahig River, the Iwahig Firefly Watching Tour, allows you to revel in nature's beauty, and in particular, to witness the display of flickering beetles we call "fireflies" or "alitap-tap." Iwahig Firefly Tour photo

abdomen. It is sometimes referred to as "cold light" because it has no ultraviolet frequencies. "Yung pagbblink nila, parang pag inhale, exhale ng tao. Depende din sa paghinga nila yung pagbblink ng ilaw sa tyan nila," he said.

Male fireflies also light up to signal their desire for mates, sometimes they do this as defense mechanism.

At Iwahig river, fireflies are almost every day present so you won't have to worry about not getting what was promised by the tour. Jonathan also mentioned that during peak seasons they can accommodate until 2:00 a.m.

"Dito sa Iwahig, madalas mo sila makita dahil nga sa temperature ng environment. 'Yung mga fireflies dito nasa mangroves sila, do'n sila kumukuha ng pollen and nectar na kinakain nila," he explained.

Flash photography is not allowed during the tour, so do not expect to get good photos from the trip. The idea is to immerse yourself with nature.

around the area.

"Sobrang daming potential ng Iwahig river. Kailangan lang talagang alagaan at 'wag abusuhin. Ginagamit siya as tourist attraction, but of course we have to know our limitations," said Liezl Ogdamin of the Provincial Tourism Office.

They also discourage boatmen from using motorized boats to avoid disturbing the fireflies.

Aside from firefly watching tour at the Iwahig River, kayaking and fishing are also offered. Kayaking fee is P400 for two persons for an hour, while fishing fee is P600 for three persons for two hours.

The firefly watching tour is a magical experience. The river water so still, you could see the stars reflected on it as the crickets tickle your ears with their every lovely sound. There is just enough ambient light from the distant city, giving the whole scene a more mystical atmosphere.

*The tour, which is currently being promoted by the tourism board of Puerto Princesa is a joint project of ABS-CBN foundation and the city government of Puerto Princesa. (www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Maui to Celebrate Filipino Film Fest, Gintong Pamana Awards Banquet

By Christine Sabado

Several upcoming events are sure to pique the interest of Maui's Filipino community. The first is the "Maui Filipino Film Fest! Celebrating Flores De Mayo" with renowned artist Phil Sabado, scheduled for May 26, 2016 from 9 am to 12 noon at the Kaunoa Senior Center.

Sabado will discuss his work, along with the works of Filipino artists Carlos Botong Francisco and Ben Cabrera. Sabado will also share his unique perspective on Hawaiian artwork, history, and Hawaiian and Philippine mythology. Attendees must be over 55 years of age and will have a choice of the presentation only for \$3 or the presentation and a Filipino meal for \$10, payable by May 12, 2016. To sign up, please call Kathy Ramos at (808) 270-7308.

The second event is the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce's Gintong Pamana Leadership & Scholarship Awards, scheduled for June 16th, 2016 at the Maui Beach Hotel beginning at 5:30 pm. For more details on the awards, please contact the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce at (808) 291-9407.

**Call Rey-Cel Travel
For The Lowest Fare
To Manila. (808) 871-6251**



**Listen To KPMW
The WILD 105.5 FM
(808) 871-6251**

Request call (808) 871-6933

Energetic young individual who can speak Ilocano and Tagalog (bilingual) to be a disk jockey of a radio station. Computer literate, radio experience, or will train. Fax resume to 808-871-5670.



KAKATALK



By Carolyn W. Hildebrand

Island Musings on José Rizal

while University of Hawaii Emeritus Professor Belinda Aquino revisited Rizal's lesser known writing "Letter to the Women of Malolos."

Relevant Ideals

Consul General Jamoralin began with her favorite Rizal quote:

"It is a useless life that is not consecrated to a great ideal. It is like a stone wasted on the field without becoming a part of any edifice."

The line is expressed by Simon, the protagonist in *El Filibusterismo*, to the young Basilio as they discussed the latter's dreams. Simply put, Rizal thought highly of people who lived for worthwhile causes and who were driven to excellence.

In her public remarks, Dr. Jamoralin posed questions that were clearly hypothetical and meant to get listeners to imagine a 21st century Jose Rizal.

"Could Rizal have written his masterpieces ("Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo") if bombarded by emails, cell phones, Twitter and Facebook posts?" she

asked?

She allowed her listeners to reflect on those thoughts while commenting on Rizal's actual life.

"By focusing his life on the essentials, not wasting his time and talent on the frivolous, he studied well, read voraciously, wrote hard and long without food at times, travelled extensively, met new people, and observed well. José Rizal gifted the Filipino people with his works, especially his masterpieces, the *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, which showed the greatness in the Filipino. He broke the stereotype etched in the minds of the Spanish colonizers that we were ignorant, indolent and subservient," she says.

Relevant Thoughts

In choosing Rizal's Letter to the Women of Malolos, Professor Aquino drew attention to women's activism in 19th century Philippines and men's support for such.

The "Letter to the Women of Malolos" was written in Tagalog on February 17, 1889.

Rizal wrote it upon the request of Marcelo Del Pilar, his fellow activist in Spain.

Based on accounts, 20 young women petitioned the highest authority in the Philippines at that time, the Governor-General, for the establishment of a night school where they could learn the Spanish language. The friar, who controlled religious and secular order at the local town level, opposed the petition.

The specifics of the struggle may be unique but the story of overcoming roadblocks reminds me of present-day fights for school improvements and struggles for social change.

In her remarks, Dr. Aquino, highlighted the letter's seven talking points that reveal a Rizal who wanted women to be assertive and independent thinkers.

Translated in English, the points have become quotable quotes of today. For example:

On asserting one's ground, Rizal wrote: "Tyranny is possible only through cowardice and negligence on the part of others."

Reminding of the need to think for one's self, he said: "Ignorance is servitude because as man thinks, so he is; a man who does not think for himself and allows himself to

be guided by the thought of another is like a beast led by a halter."

Caring and moving forward together are felt in: "A man who loves must first help his fellowmen because he who refuses protection will himself without it. The isolated rib of the buri palm is easily broken but the separate pals are bound together are strengthened and become effective."

Rizal also weighed in on religion in: "Consider the kind of religion that friars are teaching you. Is it the will of God or according to the teaching of Christ the poor be assisted and those suffering be alleviated."

Dr. Aquino compared Rizal is like his contemporary, Mahatma Gandhi. Rizal was the more prolific writer of the two, while Gandhi lived until he was 79 years old and inspired the world with his non-violent form of civil disobedience in achieving freedom and justice.

Promoting Rizal's Relevance

KAPARIZ (Kabataang Pangarapni Rizal or a Rizalian Youth Council in Hawaii) will be presenting MAD (Music, Art, and Dance) Fest Competition at the Filipino Community Center on March 27, 2016. The group recently evolved out of Knights of Rizal Hawaii Chapter activities. More information is available at: <http://rizalianyouthcouncilhawaii.weebly.com/mad-fest.html>

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Philippine Pavilion Wows Crowd at Israel's International Tourism

The Philippine pavilion at the annual International Mediterranean Tourism Market (IMTM) instantly stood out as a crowd winner during the fair's 22nd edition, which was recently held at the Tel Aviv Convention Center.

The panoramic views of destinations adorning the pavilion, beautiful and upbeat videos, rich taste of Filipino delicacies, and the variety of song and dance performances, including flair bartending, attracted hundreds of visitors and showed them that, truly, "It's More Fun in the Philippines."

The Philippine pavilion was formally opened by Department of Tourism (DOT) Undersecretary for Tourism Development Benito C. Bengzon, Jr., who led the first DOT delegation to the IMTM, and Philippine Amba-

sador to Israel Neal Imperial. Joining them were other DOT officials and partner travel agencies from the Philippines such as Annset Holidays, Inc., Fly-east Philippines, Intas Destination Management, Inc., Maman Aviation, Ltd., and Travel Experts, Inc.

Israeli Tourism Minister Yariv Gideon Levin also visited the Philippine pavilion during the first day of the travel fair and was delighted to watch the "Tinikling" performed by members of the Filipino community in Israel.

DOT officials also held a Country Presentation on the second day of the fair. Around 50 travel and tour agencies, including business organizations, attended the event. Through videos, photos, and cultural performances, DOT officials

showed why the Philippines is the next best destination for Israelis in Asia.

This is the fourth time that the Philippines has participated in the IMTM. Previous participations were done through partnership between the Philippine Embassy and the Israel-Philippines Tourism Chamber. However, this is the first time that a Philippine pavilion was organized and led by DOT which has made Israel as one of its priority markets.

In an interview with the Israeli media, Undersecretary Bengzon said: "We are trying to position the Philippines as one of the newest, most exciting, and most fun destination in Asia. Last year we had about 12,000 tourists from Israel and we grew by about 34 or 35 percent. (www.asianjournal.com)

GOLDEN CUT

BOUTIQUE | JEWELRY | HAIR | NAIL

Full Service Salon.

Come for Beauty Need Head to Toe.

- Eyebrow Tattoo
- Lash Extension, Lash Extension Extra fabulous, Color Lash Extension, Lash Extension Refill
- Make Up for any occasions
- Nails Spa- Manicure, Pedicure
- Gel Nails w/ Booster & Designs
- Special Haircuts
- Highlights, Color, Color Retouch, Rebonding, Straightening, Hair Gloss and all your hair needs
- Up do for all occasions!

Fine Jewelry 14K, 18K, Gold, Pearls, Diamonds (70% Off).
Personalized Jewels and Accessories.

Check Our New Arrivals of Women's Shoes, Casual & Evening Wear

HOLIDAY SPECIALS ON JEWELRIES.

We PAY CASH for your Old, New and Broken Jewels.

GOLDEN CUT

94-050 Farrington Hwy, Waipahu, HI 96797
Phone (808) 677-7532

PHILIPPINE NEWS

11 Filipinos Return to Forbes 2016 World Billionaire List

by Rosette Adel
Wednesday, March 2, 2016

MANILA, Philippines — Eleven Filipinos are tagged anew on the recently released Forbes magazine's annual billionaires list.

Mall and real estate magnate Henry Sy, 91, and his family remain the richest in the Philippines. Sy is the highest-ranking Filipino in the Forbes' dollar billionaires club this year as he jumped from rank 73 to 71.

Although Sy's rank went higher globally, his net worth dropped from \$14.8 billion last year to only \$13.3 billion this year.

Sy was followed by JG

Summit Holdings' John Gokongwei Jr. ranking 270 in the world with wealth of \$5.1 billion. On the other hand, Philippine Airlines and Asia Brewery's Lucio Tan and family were named the third on the 380th spot with their \$4.4 billion.

The Forbes list singled out the wealthiest individuals from at least 67 countries.

The 11 Filipino billionaires who made it to the list were dominated by United States-based businessmen. Topping the list are Microsoft founder Bill Gates with \$75.8 billion and Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg who placed sixth with his \$46.7 billion.

Nineteen-year-old Alexan-

dra Andersen from Oslo, Norway was named the youngest world billionaire with \$1.2 billion from her investments while 100-year-old David Rockefeller Sr. is the oldest billionaire in the link ranked 569 with \$3 billion from assets in the oil and banking industry.

The 11 Filipinos who landed on the Forbes' list and their net worth in dollars and source of wealth are indicated in the attached chart.

The Filipino billionaires have a combined fortune of \$42.75 billion or P2,021.65 trillion—a trillion short than the Philippine government's P3.002 trillion national budget for 2016. (www.philstar.com)

World #	Billionaire	Source of Wealth	Affiliated Brands	2016 Real time Net Worth
71	Henry Sy and family	diversified	SM Investments Corp. City of Dreams Manila	\$13.3 billion
270	John Gokongwei Jr.	diversified	JG Summit Holdings, Cebu Pacific, Universal Robina	\$5.1 billion
380	Lucio Tan and family	diversified	Asia Brewery, Philip Morris-Fortune Tobacco, Philippine Airlines, Philippine National Bank	\$4 billion
421	George Ty and family	banking	GT Capital, Metrobank	\$3.8 billion
569	David Consunji	construction	DMCI Holdings	\$3.2 billion
569	Andrew Tan	diversified	Megaworld, McDonald's, Emperador Distillers, Resorts World Manila	\$ 3.1 billion
569	Tony Tan Caktiong and family	fast food	Jollibee Foods, Greenwich Pizza, Chowking	\$3.2 billion
722	Enrique Razon Jr.	ports	International Container Terminal Services, Solaire Resort	\$2.5 billion
1121	Lucio and Susan Tan	retailing	Puregold Price Club	\$1.63 billion
1121	Robert Coyiuto Jr.	power	Prudential Guarantee & Assurance, PGA Cars, National Grid Corp.	\$1.59 billion
1387	Manuel Villar	real estate	Starmalls, Vista Land & Landscapes	\$1.33 billion

Philippine Restaurant Makes it to 'Asia's 50 Best Restaurants'

by Alixandra Caole Vila
Tuesday, March 1, 2016

MANILA, Philippines - Asia's 50 best restaurants have been named on Monday, and Philippines' Gallery Vask ranked 39 on their list.

Located on the fifth floor of Clipp Centerin BGC, the restaurant which offers modern Spanish cuisine with a Filipino twist is the only restaurant from

the Philippines which made it to the cut.

Gallery Vask, through their social media page announced the good news.

Gallery Vask, as described by the group, is a restaurant that sees the marriage of art and food.

"Gallery Vask is set in a constantly evolving art space inspired by people, nature, memories, textures, techniques, travels and history. The exclu-



sive dining area seats 20 people and showcases Filipino art curated by architect and artist Juan Carlo Calma, alongside

the food of chef Jose Luis 'Chele' González," it said on the description.

Among the standout dishes

you can order in the restaurant are Tiradito of raw tuna loin, kinilaw gel with coconut milk, calamansi and tabon-tabon.

Hundreds of experts made the decision on which restaurants should be included on the list. Here's the link to the complete list.

Filipina chef and restaurateur Margarita "Gaita" Araneta-Forés on Tuesday afternoon was also named by the award-giving group as Asia's best female chef in 2016.

(www.philstar.com)

China Takes Philippine Atoll

by Jaime Laude
Wednesday, March 2, 2016

MANILA, Philippines – The Chinese have taken over another traditional Filipino fishing ground near Palawan where they have stationed up to five ships to keep local fishermen at bay, sources said.

Now effectively under Chinese control is Quirino or Jackson Atoll, which has been a rich source of catch for a long time for fishermen from Palawan, Southern Luzon, Western Visayas and even Manila.

Gray and white Chinese vessels have not left the atoll,



Image from Google Maps shows the location of Quirino (Jackson) atoll, a ring-shaped coral reef 140 nautical miles west of Palawan.

which Filipino fishermen also call Jackson Five, because of the existence of five lagoons in the area.

The Chinese are claiming almost the entire South China Sea, including the West Philip-

(continued on page 19)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

BOARD CERTIFIED FELLOWSHIP-TRAINED EYE SURGEON

Same Day Appointments Available

Hawaii Medical Center West • St. Francis Med. Plaza West
91-2139 Ft. Weaver Rd. # 202 • Ewa Beach

677-2733

FREE Parking / Next to The Bus Stop
Staff speaks TAGALOG & ILOCANO



McMANN EYE
INSTITUTE

- COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE
- CATARACT SURGERY
- GLAUCOMA
- DIABETIC EYE CARE
- PTERYGIUM
- MACULAR DEGENERATION
- LASIK VISION CORRECTION
- ADVANCED CORNEAL TRANSPLANTATION
- SUNGLASSES, EYEGASSES & CONTACT LENSES

TECHNOLOGY FOR DAILY LIVING

LOWERING VEHICLE FUEL COSTS

By Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

About two-thirds of Oahu restaurants have their used cooking oil collected by private companies such as Pacific Biodiesel, which turns the grease into fuel for vehicles. The other one-third is collected by a vendor that sells it to companies that use it for pet food and ladies' cosmetics. Turtle Bay Resort on the North Shore gives Brigham Young University - Laie its used cooking oil to make biodiesel for BYU vehicles. Nice community collaboration.

The city of Hoover, Alabama had similar idea, but took a different approach. Its Fleet Management Department collects the used restaurant and household grease and converts it to gas for city cars. Restaurant oil is collected on site, while residential oil is collected at central locations around the city. Preventing household oil from being disposed down the drain greatly reduces the inci-



dence of sewer calls that used to run the city \$1500-\$2500 when the grease gelled in the sewer lines. It also prevents the grease from going into dumpsters which increased the risk of garbage fires, or into people's yards, which wasn't good for the environment, either. More than 35,000 gallons of used cooking oil is processed each year, giving the city a budget-friendly source of gas for city fleet at a cost of 75 cents per gallon. Over in California, the fleets of Santa Cruz City and Santa Cruz County are run on biodiesel made from

restaurant grease.

Up north in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the grease is sent to the city's wastewater reclamation plant. West Michigan University faculty assisted the city with constructing a biodiesel production facility at the sewage treatment site. The goal was to divert grease from entering the sewer system, to prevent costly and inconvenient sewer work. The city budget saves two ways: sewer wrecker fats are prevented from entering the system, and the city's bus fleet runs on the cheaper, cleaner biodiesel pro-

duced from the grease.

Wood Chips

Hoover's police cars run on fuel made from cut tree limbs, branches, and trunks, gathered during routine landscape maintenance. The wood is chipped then converted into ethanol through gasification. About 350,000 gallons of fuel per year is produced from this diverted organic rubbish, which goes into the city's fleet of 163 ethanol-powered cars and 160 biodiesel-powered vehicles. The police reported one other benefit besides the cheaper gas. Driving on clean fuel resulted in lower maintenance costs, making it even more budget friendly to make gas out of wood that would otherwise be sent to the city dump.

Food Throw-aways

Sacramento's trash collectors run on the newest technology for budget-conscious municipal governments -- garbage trucks that run on the trash it picks up. CleanWorld and Atlas Disposal Industries developed the Biodigester. Food waste from supermarkets, food processing companies, residences, and restaurants is hauled to a biogas production facility. Using anaerobic digestion technology, the throw-away food is broken down to produce biogas, which is separated and refined to make the equivalent of natural gas. A small part of the gas powers the facility, and most of it is stored as compressed natural gas (CNG) in tanks and distributed to a public access refueling station for public and private fleets. In Sacramento, California, 100 tons of food waste a day is turned into the equivalent of over 700,000 gallons of diesel. The solid leftovers of the processing are high-grade compost and soil amendment, which helps farms and landscapes.

The benefits to the city government make it a keeper: diverting almost 40,000 tons of food garbage from landfills each year -- production of 700,000 diesel gallon equivalent.

(continued on page 18)

MAINLAND NEWS

Nationwide Events Mark 70th Anniversary of Rescission Acts

The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project (FilVetREP) coordinated a series of national actions which culminated on February 18, 2016 to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the passage of the Rescission Acts of 1946 that first revoked veterans status for Filipino soldiers who fought in WWII.

The Filipino community has been mobilized nationwide to secure passage of the Filipino World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal, a bill currently pending in Congress. Senate Bill 1555 and House Bill 2737 seek to recognize more than 260,000 Filipino and Filipino American soldiers who fought under the American flag against Japan during World War II.

"America's Filipino veterans have proven their honor, courage under fire, selfless sacrifice and loyalty to the U.S., having fought in over four years of combat during World War II," says FilVetREP Chairman Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba (Ret). "They are the last minority veterans group of World War II that has yet to be recognized by Congress. They are highly deserving of this honor and we urge immediate passage of this bill."

On February 18, Filipino-Americans in Las Vegas, Nevada honored six surviving Filipino veterans at a community event. U.S. Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV) and U.S. Rep. Joe Heck (R-NV), co-presented certificates of recognition to the veterans.

"These veterans are ailing

and aging, mostly in their 90s, with only a few years to live," says Amie Belmonte, Regional Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaF-FAA). "Awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal will ensure that their story of uncommon valor will not be forgotten."

Their story is documented in a short film and accompanying Public Service Announcement version presented by FilVetREP and narrated by Hollywood actor Joe Mantegna. "Filipino World War II Veterans: Duty to Country" tells the compelling and courageous story of Filipino soldiers from the U.S. and the Philippines. Both versions are available on the FilVetREP web site at: <http://www.filvetsrecognition.org>.



Dr. David Mai MD | Dr. Sharon Takayasu OD | Dr. Michael Bennett MD
& Camara Eye Clinic Staff

We are humbled and honored to carry on the tradition of the CAMARA EYE CLINIC

Camara
EYE
Clinic

Restaurant Row
500 Ala Moana Blvd Tower 5 Suite #300
Honolulu HI 96813
Phone: (808) 533-0177

MAINLAND NEWS

AAPI Groups Urge Senate to Hold Hearings On Supreme Court Nominee

Twenty-two Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) organizations joined Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC) in an open letter to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell urging members of the Senate Judiciary

Committee to fulfill their constitutional obligations in the judicial nomination process.

The letter comes in response to a declaration by Committee Chairman U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley and other Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

that they will not hold hearings on any nomination made by President Obama for the Supreme Court.

AAJC President and Executive Director Mee Moua says her organization is outraged by Senate Republicans' refusal to hold confirmation hearings or vote on a Supreme Court nominee, calling it "po-

litical gamesmanship and disregard of constitutional duty"

"The court this term will hear important issues that will deeply impact AAPI communities," she says. "To prolong a vacancy on the highest court in our nation for nearly two full court terms is unconscionable and undermines the guarantee of access to justice owed to

people of this country."

AAJC works to empower AAPI communities across the country by bringing local and national constituencies together, advocating for federal policy that reflects the needs of Asian Americans, and empowering Asian Americans to be able to fully participate in our democracy.

Pentagon Chief Says China Actions Will Have Consequences'

MANILA, Philippines — United States (US) Defense Secretary Ashton Carter on Tuesday stressed that China should not pursue militarization in the disputed South China Sea as it would result in conflict among claimant states.

"China must not pursue militarization in the South China Sea. Specific actions will have specific consequences," Carter said in a speech before the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, California.

Carter recalled that Chi-

nese President Xi Jinping earlier said that his country will not militarize the disputed sea despite its reclamation activities in the area.

The US Defense Secretary noted that almost 30 percent of the world's maritime trade passes by the South China Sea annually.

"That's why the United States joins virtually every nation in the region in being deeply concerned about the artificial island construction and militarization in the South China Sea, including steps, especially by China, as it has taken most recently, by plac-



U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter speaks at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, Tuesday, March 1, 2016. AP/Jeff Chiu

ing anti-access systems and military aircraft on a disputed island," Carter said.

Carter, however, clarified that the US is not holding back or pushing any country down in its freedom of navigation activities in the region.

"The United States wants every nation to have the opportunity to rise and that includes

China. We welcome its rise and its inclusion in this architecture. But we don't welcome aggressive behavior," the US Defense chief said.

Carter said that the US will continue to provide defense systems to their allies and assist them in advancing maritime se-

curity, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

Foreign ministers of Southeast Asian countries have recently voiced out their concern over the recent developments in the South China Sea.

This follows reports that Beijing has deployed surface-to-air missiles at Woody Island in the Paracel chain. It has also been reported that China has been building radar systems in some of the reefs in the Spratly Group of Islands.

The Chinese have also reportedly taken over Quirino atoll, a traditional Filipino fishing ground near Palawan, and have been keeping local fishermen at bay. (www.philstar.com)

TECHNOLOGY FOR DAILY LIVING (from page 17, LOWERING....)

lents – revenue of more \$1.1 million annually. The total cost for the system was \$12 million for a digester, biogas refiner, refueling station, construction. Local banks and Synergex provided additional funding.

New Drive System

Parker Hannifin is a company that found that mad scientists enjoy being both creative and competitive. One of the brainstorm ideas their researchers came up with was a garbage truck that ran on the trash it collected, turning trash trucks into hybrids. The company combined this technology with a hydraulic braking system. FedEx and UPS already has the technology on the road, shaving operation costs off their budgets, thereby increasing profits. The company projects that by 2020, its hydraulic hybrid trash truck will rake in \$200 million a year in sales. Earlier models reduced fuel costs by 20% for

sanitation trucks, city buses, and delivery vans. More than 100 are already picking up garbage across the country. Last year, new trucks began operating in Orlando, Florida; New Braunfels, Texas; Marin County, California; Tacoma, Washington; Oberlin, Ohio; and Loveland, Colorado. The hydraulic drive system reduces brake wear, which also reduces maintenance costs. The RunWise Advanced Series Hybrid Drive System uses natural gas for fuel, making garbage trucks environmentally clean for air emission as well as less noisy.

These are just a few of the ways that city and county governments across our country are reducing their operating budgets by diverting waste from landfills. We hope that the success stories from elsewhere can also encourage our county officials to explore these solutions to the common issues municipal governments face.

philstar.com
The Filipino Global Community

shines even brighter
for the Filipino Global
Community

Join us as we journey into a new home!

Log on to www.philstar.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALLIANCE OF RESIDENTIAL CARE ADMINISTRATORS 15TH BIENNIAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS GALA NIGHT | March 5, 2016 | 6:00 - 11:00 PM | DERUSSY BALLROOM, HALE KOA HOTEL | Contact: Ramon Sumibcay @ 489-7148

HELPING HANDS HAWAII 11TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER | March 10, 2016 | 5:30 PM | TAPA BALLROOM HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE, Cocktails & Live Hawaiian Music at 5:30 PM ; Dinner & Program at 6:30 pm; **RSVP by February 29, 2016** | For more information, contact Jan Harada, President & CEO at 440-3820 or at jharada@helpinghandshawaii.org

SARILING GAWA YOUTH COUNCIL'S 36TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE CAMP | March 19-21, 2016 | YMCA CAMP ERDMAN IN MOKULEIA FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS; **COST: \$140.00 per person** | Contact Rouel Velasco, rouel.velasco@sarilinggawa.org/218-

0833 for more information.

ANNUAL TERNO BALL, HAWAII FILIPINO WOMEN'S CLUB (HFWC) | April 30, 2016 | 6:00 PM | ALA MOANA HOTEL, HIBISCUS BALLROOM | Contact Nelly Pongco Liu @ 228-7808 or Carlota Ader @ 688-3215

FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS | July 16, 2016 | 6:00 PM | TAPA BALLROOM, HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE | Contact: Bernadette Fajardo @ 342-0890

SANTANIANS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII-USA INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS | July 16, 2016 | 6:00 - 11:00 PM | HIBISCUS BALLROOM, ALA MOANA HOTEL | Contact: Dr. Julius Soria (722-9958); Amy Quides (255-6380); Aurora Garcia (722-3150) or email santaniansofhiusa@gmail.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

BIG ISLAND COOK POSITION

Must know Pork Adobo. Will train the rest. Great pay / benefits. Apply @ Paradise Pizza, Waikoloa Beach Resort.

FRUIT/VEGETABLE CUTTER (FT/PT)

Paid Vacation+Overtime Possible Super Foods, Inc. 3209 Ualena St., 834-1541

JANITORS PART TIME |TOWN | DAYS \$8 HR

Full time utility esp strip/wax floors, clean carpets, windows 6AM-2:30 PM or 7PM-3AM | \$9- \$11 hr Dr Lic & US Citizen helpful but not needed Call 8451955| 9-4PM M-F

DRIVER & PROCESSION ROOM WORKER

- Clean abstract required for driver.
- Competitive pay, medical, dental, vision, & 401k
- profit sharing benefits.

Application hours:

10am-3pm, Mon-Fri

Apply in person at:

KOHA FOODS

500 Alakawa St. #104

Honolulu, HI 96817

HELP WANTED Full time & Permanent

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE Entry Position

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Ilocano/Eng. speaking; farming experience; Knowledge of plants ; Experienced with some power tools; Quality conscious ; Team Player

BENEFITS:

Medical/Dental/Vision HMSA coverage - fully paid Paid Holidays (15), Vacation Pay, and Sick Pay Annual Raises and Annual Bonus

COMPENSATION:

Start \$11 - \$12/hr; Opportunity for advancement

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE Experienced Professional

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Ilocano/English speaking; Irrigation Repair & Controller Knowledge; Commercial/Industrial experience; Knowledge of Herbicides; Pesticides, and Fertilizers; Knowledge of plants; Experienced with tools, equipment & machines; Team Player; Quality Conscious; Industry References; Valid Drivers License

BENEFITS:

Medical/Dental/Vision HMSA coverage - fully paid Paid Holidays (15), Vacation Pay, and Sick Pay Annual Raises and Annual Bonus

COMPENSATION:

Start \$14 - \$16/hour depending on industry knowledge, experience, & capabilities

CALL 721-6520

MAINLAND NEWS

Study: Undocumented Californians Paid \$3.2B in State and Local Taxes

An updated study by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) found that undocumented immigrants who reside in California collectively paid almost \$3.2 billion in state and local taxes in 2013.

The nationwide analysis released on Wednesday, Feb. 24, entitled Undocumented Immigrants' State and Local Tax Contributions, concluded that the Obama administration's executive actions (including the expansion of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA) would increase state and local tax contributions in California by at least \$184 million.

An even more substantial increase of \$450 million is projected under comprehensive immigration reform granting all undocumented immigrants lawful permanent residence, reported ITEP and the California #Health4All Initiative.

"Regardless of the politically contentious nature of immigration reform, the data show undocumented immigrants greatly contribute to our nation's economy, not

just in labor but also with tax dollars," said ITEP State Tax Policy Director Meg Wiehe in a statement.

Nationwide, undocumented immigrants contribute more than \$11.6 billion to state and local coffers each year, and pay an average of 8 percent of their total incomes in state and local taxes. (The top 1 percent of taxpayers nationwide pay an average effective tax rate of just 5.4 percent.)

The analysis also found that combined state and local tax contributions of the nation's total undocumented immigrant population (around 11 million) would increase by more than \$800 million, under full implementation of President Barack Obama's 2012 and 2014 executive actions to grant temporary protection for up to 5 million (1.52 million in California) eligible undocumented immigrants living in the US.

Under comprehensive immigration reform, these contributions are estimated to rise to over \$2.1 billion.

"With immigration policy play-

ing a key role in state and national debates, and President Obama's 2014 executive action [on immigration] facing review by the Supreme Court, accurate information about the tax contributions of undocumented immigrants is needed now more than ever," Wiehe added.

While the report focuses on the financial and economic consequences of immigration reform on state and local-level taxes, ITEP reported, the results mirror those at the federal level. According to a 2010 report from the Congressional Budget Office, full immigration reform at the federal level would decrease the deficit and generate more than \$450 billion in additional federal revenue over the next decade.

Obama's executive actions are also estimated to have overall positive effects on labor market growth, productivity, wages, and economic growth, said the Council of Economic Advisers and the Center of American Progress.

(www.asianjournal.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS (from page 16, CHINA.....)

pine Sea. Manila is contesting Beijing's claim before an international arbitral court based in The Hague.

Filipino fishermen lamented the Chinese vessels would not allow them to come near or linger in the Quirino Atoll.

The area is between the Philippine-occupied Lawak Island and the Chinese-occupied Panganiban (Mischief) Reef.

Fishermen from Mindoro Occidental who asked not to be

named said Chinese boats chased them away when they tried to enter the area last week.

"These gray and white Chinese ships, around four of them inside the lagoon, prevented us from entering our traditional fishing ground," one of the fishermen said.

Kalayaan Mayor Eugenio Bito-onon Jr. said the Chinese ships have been staying in Quirino Atoll for more than a month now. "They have many ships there," he said, without

elaborating.

Philippine air patrol has confirmed the presence of at least four Chinese coast guard ships in the Jackson lagoons.

A Palawan-based fishing operator said the Chinese began deploying ships to Quirino Atoll after a Manila-based fishing carrier boat ran aground in the area due to bad weather.

The fishing operator said his boats have since been avoiding the area due to the

menacing presence of presumably armed Chinese ships. "We can't enter the area anymore," he bewailed.

Early last month, Chinese gray and white ships – presumably naval and maritime surveillance vessels – harassed Philippine Navy logistic ship BRP Laguna near Hasa-Hasa (Half Moon) Shoal, another Filipino fishing ground in the West Philippine Sea just 60 nautical miles from the southern tip of Palawan.

In 2012, the Chinese took control of Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal after a brief standoff with a Philippine Navy vessel whose crew had tried to arrest Chinese poachers.

Outnumbered and outgunned by the Chinese, the Filipinos were forced to release the poachers along with their illegal cargo of live baby sharks, giant clams and endangered corals. The Chinese have never left the shoal since then.

(www.philstar.com)



CHARLIE Y. SONIDO, M.D. INC.

wishes to announce the association of



**RAINIER DENNIS D. BAUTISTA
M.D.**

Diplomate, American Board of Family Medicine

in the **Primary Care Clinic** of Kauai, located at
4366 Kukui Grove Street, Suite 202, Lihue, Kauai, HI 96766

Tel No. (808) 246-3800 | After hours: (808) 988-2188

*"Our mission is to serve the health needs
of the Filipino community in Kauai."*

